

Bashiya and the two children continued to wait for approval of the Special Immigrant Visa program, and finally, in 2016, 7 years after they applied, they got the news they were waiting for. They were approved. Now, it has been 7 years since Bashiya has seen her husband and since he has seen his children. The system has torn the family apart. Bashiya's story is not uncommon. There are others.

Jackie, a dedicated and compassionate social worker from Uganda, is the mother of two sons. Jackie has not seen her oldest son, Arinda, since 2014, when she fled Nairobi, Kenya and came to the United States. Arinda will turn 8 years old on November 13. And on November 21, his case to join his mother will have been pending for 2 years. For 2 years this family has been in bureaucratic limbo, and it has taken its toll. Jackie is seriously considering having her son adopted by a family in Canada so she at least will be separated by less time and geography.

Our system is broken. We are forcing refugees to other countries like Australia and Canada, and we are not living up to the standards of the shining beacon for people facing persecution and violence. We are a Nation of immigrants. We are a Nation of opportunity, and we need to act like it. We will continue to encourage the administration to increase the refugee caps to make the vetting process under the State Department more efficient and to ensure resources are available to give refugees the certainty that they need.

I hope that my colleagues will join me and make a difference for people like Bashiya and Jackie and make a difference for our communities, because we are all stronger when we embrace our history as the world's melting pot.

RECOGNIZING KERENSA WING AS THE NATIONAL PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate you making some time in the day today. It is not very often that one of us gets named the very best in our field. Such a recognition is very powerful. And today, Mr. Speaker, you can't see it from where you are standing, but I have a list of the three finalists in the National Association of Secondary School Principals Principal of the Year program.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate each and every one of them. They are: Joey Jones from Robert Frost Middle School right around the corner in Rockville, Maryland; Lindsa McIntyre from Jeremiah E. Burke High School in Dorchester, Massachusetts; and Kerensa Wing from Collins Hill High School in Suwanee, Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot succeed in our communities without dedicated public servants like these, and it will

come as no surprise to you, since I am down here on the floor today congratulating these three finalists, that the national association named as the Principal of the Year from my very own district, from the Gwinnett County school system, Kerensa Wing at Collins Hill High School.

Mr. Speaker, to meet Kerensa Wing, the first thing you will notice is that charisma that she has that connects her with her students and with her parents. That partnership that she develops with her administrators and with her teachers, that is the partnership that we strive for here and the one that is recognizing Kerensa Wing out of 90,000 principals across the country.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Wing has spent her entire career in service to my community back home. I only represent two counties. She lives in one, makes that her family's home. She works in the other, having spent 30 years in the Gwinnett County school system. These pictures reflect her work in her last 5 years as principal at Collins Hill High School. She has also served at Shiloh High School as a teacher. She helped to open our brand-new Lanier High School, and then returned to Collins Hill.

Mr. Speaker, the passion that is at the center of her decisionmaking is that love of students, a teacher at heart. This work, as you know, is not a work done for a salary. It is not a work done for even national recognition. It is a work done out of a sense of opportunity to be transformative in the lives of the young people around us.

Whether you sit on the far left or the far right, Mr. Speaker, whatever your politics of the day are, if there is one thing that is worth celebrating, it is those men and women back home who make differences for the young people in our lives.

Principal Kerensa Wing is such a person, and it is with no small amount of pride that I congratulate her today.

She was actually here in town, Mr. Speaker, with her family, and if only the House had been in session, I would have been here to congratulate her. We were back home working that week, so I missed that opportunity to be with her here in this Chamber. But I am not going to miss the opportunity today in this Chamber to tell her how much we appreciate her, how much her students appreciate her, and how much better both Forsyth County and Gwinnett County are that she, with her talents, could work anywhere and live anywhere in the great United States of America, Mr. Speaker, and she has chosen our community to serve.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Principal Wing and congratulate her.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 54 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. SÁNCHEZ) at noon.

PRAYER

Bishop Robert Barron, Archdiocese of Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, California, offered the following prayer:

O God, source of all justice, You have summoned everyone who works in this Chamber to walk the path of righteousness, to foster life and liberty, to care especially for the poorest and most vulnerable in our society. Free these servants of Yours, O Lord, of all those attachments to wealth or power or privilege or fame that would prevent them from following the course You have set out for them. Make them mindful of the time when they first heard Your voice and followed it with idealism and enthusiasm.

Illumine their minds, direct their wills, stir up in them a holy passion for doing what is right, despite the cost. Give them the knowledge that whenever they strive for justice, they are pleasing to You. And shower, O Lord, Your choicest blessings upon our country.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CICILLINE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING BISHOP ROBERT BARRON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from New York (Mr. SUOZZI) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. SUOZZI. Madam Speaker, I rise to welcome Bishop Robert Barron, who gave the opening prayer today, here to the Chamber.

Bishop Barron is the second-most followed Catholic on social media after the Pope. He is a remarkable man who